WLL and fixed licenses

†943. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the companies which have applied for WLL and fixed line licenses during the last one year;

(b) how much performance bank guarantee and entry fee have been deposited by these companies with Government, company-wise; and

(c) whether these companies are likely to offer new services to the customers and if so, the details thereof, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd. had applied for basic service licenses which includes WLL and fixed line during last one year for four service areas namely Kerala, Uttar Pradesh (West), Haryana and Punjab. Further the company has now applied for Unified Access Service License requesting that in case of grant of letter of intent for the same, the letter of intent issued for Basic Service license shall be surrendered.

(b) The entry fee and Performance Bank Guarantee has not been deposited so far.

(c) The company is likely to offer new services such as high data rate and prepaid card services to its customers.

Escort service

944. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start an 'Escort Service' which would provide information on foreign countries visa rules, etc. To IT professionals working abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) It was envisaged that a Visa Facilitation Cell would be set up by National association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) in its head office in Delhi and its other regional offices to assist Indian IT professionals in the matters of obtaining proper visas for their travel abroad for work. The Visa Facilitation Cell of the NASSCOM has conducted Visa workshops and brought in country delegations from Wales, U.K., Malaysia, Canada, Italy, Singapore and Germany a part of its Annual Conference 2003 to provide an interactive platform for the Indian companies on various issues including visa regulations of the respective countries. Similar interactive sessions have been organized by NASSCOM with Consulates of Canada and Embassies of USA and Shenghen countries.

Waiting list of telephone connections in Orissa

945. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people waiting for telephone connections in each district in Orissa;

(b) the steps taken to clear the waiting list; and

(c) by when, telephone would be sanctioned in each district on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of people waiting for telephone connections in each district in Orissa is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) A total of 1,37,000 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) have already been planned by BSNL during 2003-04 of which 93,313 have been provided upto 31.10.2003 (including 20479 land lines, 7619 WLL connections and 65215 cellular mobile connections) BSNL is making all out efforts for provision of telephones to wait listed applicants as well as new registrations in each of the districts by expansion of landline, Mobile and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones.